



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

March 13, 2013

Mr. Chad Gardner
Superintendent of Public Works
Princeville Village Hall
120 N. Walnut
PO Box 200
Princeville, IL 61559

Mr. Steve Blust
Project Manager
Bruner, Cooper & Zuck, Inc.
188 E. Simmons Street
Galesburg, IL 61401

Re: Aten Acres Subdivision - Princeville
Endangered Species Consultation Program
Project Number(s): 1308757
County: Peoria

Dear Mr. Gardner and Mr. Blust:

The Department received a submission from Bruner, Cooper and Zuck, Inc., via the Department's Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool (EcoCAT) website, on behalf of the Village of Princeville, regarding this project in Section 18, Township 11 North, Range 7 East for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The project involves the construction of a 10-lot residential subdivision, east of Craig Street and south of Woertz Street, on 11 acres. No stormwater basin is planned for this subdivision; stormwater will be released to the northeast side of the subdivision. The preliminary plat shows the potential for 14 additional lots, although at present, plans submitted only delineate 10 lots to be developed.

The project is located northwest of records for the State-listed endangered **Loggerhead Shrike**, *Lanius ludovicianus*, and north of records for the State-listed threatened **Franklin's Ground Squirrel**, *Spermophilus franklinii*.

Loggerhead shrikes have declined in Illinois due to the loss of hedgerows for nesting and feeding and loss of large open grassland areas. They need both habitats to provide hunting, lookout perches, and nesting cover. Their breeding and nestling period is likely from late March to late July; they usually migrate to their wintering grounds between August and October. Shrikes are a 'sit and wait' predator that impales its prey after capture, thus its need for thorny trees and shrubs. Common prey include small birds and mammals (mice - winter preference), reptiles and amphibians, and a variety of invertebrates (grasshoppers & beetles - summer preference).

Franklin's Ground Squirrels have declined in Illinois due to loss of burrowing habitat and development encroachment. Franklin's Ground Squirrels (FGS) can usually be found in habitats containing a mix of grasses and woody components, although they can also be found along bike trails (such as the current, known population southeast of Princeville), railroad embankments, park-like settings, grassy openings near wooded edges, agricultural areas, and within excavated dirt piles. This species lives the majority of its life within a burrow system that can extend up to 8 feet underground and have several tunnels and openings. These squirrels are most active on bright sunny days and spend only approximately 10% of their time outside of the burrows. The males emerge usually around mid-April and females emerge late April; juveniles emerge around early July. The young disperse from the burrows in August or September and can travel 1-2 miles to establish new territory. This species could be attracted to disturbed soil/dirt piles created on site which could bring in a population, if not already present.

The Department has completed its review of the project and determined that the action will not adversely impact either species, however, the possibility remains that at some point, either could inhabit or traverse the proposed subdivision. To minimize potential impacts, the Department recommends that the Village of Princeville incorporate the following measures in its project authorization:

Recommendation #1. All on-site personnel involved in the project should be educated on how to recognize both of these species. Color photos (of adults and juveniles) and educational materials regarding the species should be distributed, discussed at pre-construction meetings, and displayed at work zones.

Recommendation #2. The Department would like to stress that if either species is seen, or encountered, during the construction phase, or after build out, there is the potential for incidental take to occur. If a population of either species is confirmed within or near the project footprint, construction related work would need to immediately stop, and the Village would need to consider obtaining Incidental Take Authorization from the Department's Office of Resource Conservation, pursuant to 520 ILCS 10/5.5, which would result in a conservation plan for the species. Take is defined in the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act as 'to harm, hunt, shoot, pursue, lure, wound, kill, destroy, harass, gig, spear, ensnare, trap, capture, collect, or to attempt to engage in such conduct.

Recommendation #3. If Loggerhead Shrikes or Franklin's Ground Squirrels are seen, or encountered, on or near the project's footprint, Michelle Simone, IDNR District Heritage Biologist, (309/202-3438) should be immediately contacted, *keeping in mind it is a criminal act for anyone to handle, or move, a listed species unless Incidental Take Authorization has been permitted.* Personnel on site should watch the species until the proper authority arrives to handle the situation.

Recommendation #4. The primary management need of the Loggerhead Shrike is the preservation of hedgerows and thorny tree species, interspersed with large, open grassland areas. The Department recommends that trees on the eastern edge of the project footprint remain, or be removed and replaced with the following species (which Loggerhead Shrikes prefer for nesting and feeding): Osage Orange, Honey Locust, Red Cedar, Hawthorn, Pines, or Spruce.

Consultation on the part of the Department is completed. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), Princeville must notify the Department of its decision regarding these recommendations, whether they will:

- Allow the action to proceed as originally planned;
- Require the action to be modified per Department recommendations (please specify which measures if not all will be required); or
- Forgo the action.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resources review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected species are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this consultation review.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathi Davis".

Kathi Davis
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
Impact Assessment Section
Office of Realty & Environmental Planning
217-785-5500

cc: Michelle Simone, IDNR/Region I/Natural Heritage
Byron Paulsen, IDNR/District 7/Wildlife